



California Department of Fish and Game Deer Management Program 2006 Deer Zone Information

Wildlife Programs Branch
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95814

South Coast Region

General Deer Hunting Information For

ZONE D-16

(Includes Additional Hunts G-13, M-6 and A-22)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone D-16 located in portions of Imperial, Riverside and San Diego counties. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery and general seasons as well as any "additional hunts" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area, contact the South Coast Region Office, 4949 View Ridge Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123 (858-467-4201).

REGULATIONS

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at:

<http://www.fgc.ca.gov/html/regs.html>

The 2006 deer hunting regulations specific for Zone D-16 (archery and general season) and any additional hunts are listed at the end of this sheet. To hunt deer in Zone D-16, hunters must possess a Zone D-16 deer tag. This tag is valid during the archery or general season using the appropriate method of take.

Additionally, Archery Only #1 Tags (AO#1) and Archery Only #2 Tags (AO#2) are valid during the Zone D-16 archery or general season using archery equipment only.

Any additional deer hunts in Zone D-16 are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section, below. Typically, tags for additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To receive tags for many of these hunts, hunters must plan ahead and are encouraged to submit deer tag applications by late May. For information regarding deer tag application procedures and obtaining a deer tag for this area, see the Big Game Hunting Booklet, available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/biggamebook.html>

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; attach the tag to the antlers, or ear if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to the Department within 30 days of taking a deer.

LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES

Zone D-16 contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Remember you must obtain and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. Public lands within Zone D-16 are primarily administered by the Cleveland National Forest (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management. For information regarding these lands contact the following:

USFS Offices:

Cleveland National Forest, 10845 Rancho Bernardo Road, Ste. 200, Rancho Bernardo, CA 92127-2107 (858-673-6180)

BLM Offices:

California Desert District, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553 (951-697-5200)

El Centro Field Office, 1661 South Fourth Street, El Centro CA 92243 (760-337-4400)

Palm Springs South Coast Field Office, 690 W. Garnet Ave., P.O. Box 581260, North Palm Springs, CA 92258-1260 (760-251-4800)

Wilderness lands have been established within the Cleveland National Forest. The Agua Tibia, Pine Creek and Hauser Wilderness Areas are accessible by hiking and pack stock. Public use of the wilderness is regulated by permit. Information on wilderness area restrictions and Wilderness Permits may be obtained by contacting the Cleveland National Forest.

In Zone D-16 and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/plm.html>

Reminder: In Zone D-16, Anza-Borrego Desert and Cuyamaca Rancho State Parks comprise much of eastern San Diego and a portion of western Imperial County. These parks are closed to hunting.

MAPS

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following link:

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer_maps.html

The most comprehensive map of the area is the Cleveland National Forest map. USFS maps are available at all USFS offices or you can contact the USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Office at: 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707-562-8737).

BLM surface management maps may also be useful. You can purchase these maps at BLM district offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may be available from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at: Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS).

ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS

Although there is a lot of private land in Zone D-16, there are extensive tracts of public lands with excellent access. Primary roadways in Zone D-16 include Interstates 8 and 15, and Highways 76, 78 and 79. Many County and USFS roads branch off of these primary roadways providing access to public lands.

WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. The weather is usually quite hot and dry, but early storms are not uncommon. Snow fall will be a rare occurrence with these storms but heavy rains can make many roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel. Late season storms can result in significant accumulations of snow at higher elevations. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

Zone D-16 encompasses a large geographic area, and hunters are advised to assure gasoline tanks are full before entering the backcountry. Terrain can be hard and flat, to steep and rocky. As is the case for all remote area travel, hunters should take along a shovel, serviceable spare tire, and lots of extra food and

water. Within Zone D-16 hunting areas, four-wheel-drive vehicles are not required but do provide greater accessibility to the zone. Be sure to use extra caution when driving off-road. Check with USFS regarding vehicle travel restrictions that may be in place. Street-legal licensed vehicles are required within the majority of the zone; green-sticker vehicles are permitted only in certain locations and routes. Horses can improve hunter access in some Zone D-16 locations, such as wilderness areas however horse permits may be required and can be obtained through USFS.

The Federal Government, through the USFS, requires a Forest Adventure Pass and Wilderness Pass in possession if you intend to park your vehicle and use the USFS public lands for any purpose. For more information, contact the Cleveland National Forest.

CAMPING

There are numerous designated campgrounds within Zone D-16. The facilities available at these campgrounds vary from primitive campsites to campsites with running water and showers. Most campgrounds are clearly marked on USFS maps. Camping outside of designated campgrounds may be permitted on USFS lands. However, during fire season special regulations may apply and it will be necessary to obtain a fire permit from the USFS. You can also check with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection office for rules in specific areas.

Please, DO NOT camp or hunt for prolonged periods near water sources important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining for over 30 minutes and within 200 yards of an artificial water source on public lands within California; or any wildlife watering place such as waterholes, springs, seeps and man-made watering devices within the California Desert Conservation Area on BLM land is a Fish and Game violation (Title 14, Section 730). You can pack water, wildlife can't.

HARVEST INFORMATION

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained in the annual Deer Kill Reports available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> The most useful tables for the purposes of planning or applying for hunts in this area are Tables 1b (Harvest and Success Information), 2a (Antler Class Information) and 10b (Drawing Statistics).

HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS

The deer population in Zone D-16 is considered stable to slightly declining, yet considerably below levels seen in the late 1960's and 1970's. As with most deer herds in California and other western states, the long-term population trend has been on a steady decline since the 1960's and 1970's. These long-term declines have been due to land management practices that have precluded fire, resulting in changes toward more mature and less diverse habitats, and reduced quality and quantity of deer habitats. Short-term fluctuations in deer populations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone D-16 is the Southern mule deer. Deer in Zone D-16 are considered resident deer. That is, their movement is up and down the slopes, they do not make long seasonal migrations. Deer in some portions of the zone may move to higher elevations in late spring and remain there until the first heavy fall storms force them down below the snow line. This downward movement often occurs during the hunting season, so hunters should be prepared to move to lower areas later in the season after stormy weather.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone D-16 ranging from coastal oak and scrub, chaparral and desert scrub to hardwood-conifer habitats. Generally speaking, deer populations in this area respond favorably to vegetation disturbances that enhance brush species (wildfire and timber harvesting). Riparian areas (areas along watercourses), recently burned areas or clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush are good areas to hunt. Areas where oaks are producing acorns may also attract deer. Typically, lower densities of deer are observed in the more densely forested areas or in older, more decadent brushlands.

HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or

groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and generally the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock.

Historically, some of the more popular and productive areas in Zone D-16 include: Adobe Springs, Aqua Tibia, Bear Valley, Black Canyon, Boulder Creek, Cherry Canyon, Cottonwood Canyon, Deer Park, Fry Creek, Indian Flats, Kitchen Creek, Love Valley, Monument Peak, Otay Mountain, Palomar Mountain, Pine Creek, Pine Mountain, Rodriguez Canyon and Storm Canyon.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerguide.pdf>

ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS

In 2006, there are three additional hunt opportunities within Zone D-16: Hunt G-13 (San Diego Antlerless Deer Hunt), Hunt M-6 (San Diego Muzzleloading Rifle Either-Sex Deer Hunt) and Hunt A-22 (San Diego Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt). For general maps detailing the individual hunt area boundaries, go to the following link: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer_maps.html

2006 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

§ 360. Deer.

Except as otherwise provided in this Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

(a) A, B, C, and D Zone Hunts.

(15) Zone D-16.

(A) Area: Those portions of Imperial, Riverside and San Diego counties within the line beginning at the Pacific Ocean and Highway 76; east on Highway 76 to Interstate 15; north on Interstate 15 to Highway 79; east on Highway 79 to the San Diego-Riverside county line; east along the San Diego-Riverside county line to the Anza-Borrego State Park boundary; south along the Anza-Borrego State Park boundary to Highway 78; east on Highway 78 to Highway 111; south on Highway 111 to the U.S.-Mexican border; west along the U.S.-Mexican border to the Pacific Ocean; north along the shoreline to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The season in Zone D-16 shall open on the fourth Saturday in October and extend for 30 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (See subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 3,000.

(c) Additional Hunts.

(10) G-13 (San Diego Antlerless Deer Hunt).

(A) Area: That portion of San Diego County within Zone D-16 (see subsection 360(a)(15)(A)).

(B) Season: The season for additional hunt G-13 (San Diego Antlerless Deer Hunt) shall open on the fourth Saturday in October and extend for 23 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One antlerless deer (see subsection 351(b)) per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 300.

(19) M-6 (San Diego Muzzleloading Rifle Either-Sex Deer Hunt).

(A) Area: That portion of San Diego County within Zone D-16 (see subsection 360(a)(15)(A)).

(B) Season: The season for additional hunt M-6 (San Diego Muzzleloading Rifle Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall open on the third Saturday in December and extend through December 31.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see subsection 351(c)) per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 80.

(E) Special Conditions: Only muzzleloading rifles as specified in Section 353 may be used.

(44) Conditions for Special Hunts.

(A) When hunting on military reservations or private lands, hunters shall have in their possession a written permit signed by the landowner, which may specify where and when the permittee may hunt.

(B) When required, tagholders shall check in and check out of designated check stations.

§ 361. Archery Deer Hunting.

(a) Archery Hunting With General Deer Zone Tags. Deer may be taken during the archery season only with archery equipment specified in Section 354 as follows:

(4) D Zones.

(E) Zones D-14, D-16, D-17 and D-19.

1. Area: As described in subsection 360(a)(13)(A), (15)(A), (16)(A) and (17)(A), respectively.

2. Season: The archery season in zones D-14, D-16, D-17 and D-19 shall open on the first Saturday in September and extend for 23 consecutive days.

3. Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.

(b) Archery Hunting With Area-specific Archery Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, only during the archery seasons as follows:

(20) A-22 (San Diego Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt).

(A) Area: That portion of San Diego County within Zone D-16 (see subsection 360(a)(15)(A)).

(B) Season: The season for hunt A-22 (San Diego Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall open on the first Saturday in September and extend for 44 consecutive days, and reopen on the third Saturday in November and extend through December 31.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see subsection 351(c)) per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 1,000.

(c) Archery Hunting with Archery Only Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, during the archery seasons and general seasons as follows:

(1) Number of Archery Only Tags Permitted. A person may obtain an archery only tag using a one-deer tag application and a second archery only tag using a second deer tag application.

(2) Zones in Which Archery Only Tags are Valid. An archery only tag is valid for hunt G-10, and during the archery season and general season in all zones except C-1 through C-4 and X-1 through X-12.

(3) Areas: As described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(4) Seasons: The archery season and general seasons are provided in subsection 361(a) above and in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(5) Bag and Possession Limit: All bag and possession limits per zone are the same as those described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(d) Hunting Area Limitations. Archers not in possession of an archery only tag may hunt only in the zone, zones, or areas for which they have a general tag or an area-specific archery tag. (Refer to subsection 361(c)(2) for zones in which archery only tags are valid).

(e) Crossbow Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 354(j), crossbows may not be used during any archery season or during the general season when using an archery only tag.

**** GOOD LUCK! ****